

ARTICLES

TO BE

ENQUIRED OF

Within the

Archdeaconry

COLCHESTER:

BY THE

Church-wardens and Side-men
in every Parish.

Given *Anno Domini*, 1664.



L O N D O N,

Printed by *Richard Hodgkinson*, 1664.

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LONDON,

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The Tenor of the Oath to be Administred to the Church-wardens and Side-men of every Parish.

You shall swear to make a full and true Presentment of all persons that now are, or of late were inhabiting within your Parish, that you know to have committed any offence by the Canons of this Church, or Laws of this Realm presentable in this Court. All this you shall do uprightly and truly, without favour, or malice; hope of reward, or fear of displeasure. So help you God.



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ARTICLES

OF

VISITATION and ENQUIRY within the Arch-Deaconry of COLCHESTER.

TIT. I.

*Concerning Churches, Chappels, with the Ornaments and
Furniture thereunto belonging.*

1. **I**S your Parish Church or Chappel in good and sufficient repair, both for the Roof, Windows, Floor, and Seats, and kept decently and clear? Can. 85.

2. Hath any part of your Church, Chappel, or Steeple been demolished or pulled down? what part, and how long since? or any of the Lead, Timber or Bells thereunto formerly belonging, any way imbezelled or sold, and by whom?

3. Is there a decent Font of Stone with a cover? and doth the same stand at or near the neather end of your Church, in such manner as anciently and usually Fonts have stood for the baptizing of children? Is there a decent Communion-Table in your

A

Chancel,

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- Can. 82. - Chancel, with a decent Carpet, and another Covering with white Linnen, to be spread thereon at the time of the Administration of the Lords Supper? and have you a fair Chalice, or Communion-Cup, with a Cover, or one or more Flagons?
- Can. 20.
- Can. 83. 4. Have you a convenient Seat or Pew wherein to read Divine Service, a Pulpit with a decent Cloth or Cushion, a large Bible of the last Translation, and a Book of Common-prayer lately Published, Anno 1662. the Book of Homilies set forth by Authority, and a Printed Table of the degrees wherein Marriages are prohibited, and a Book of Canons and Constitutions Ecclesiasticall, and a decent Surplice and Hood? And are the Ten Commandments set upon the East end of your Church or Chappel?
- Can. 80.
- Can. 70. 5. Have you a Register-book in Parchment of Christnings, Burials, and Marriages? and is the same kept in all points according to the ancient use?
- Can. 70.
- Can. 52. 6. Have you a Book of Paper, to record the names and licenses of such Strangers as are admitted to Preach in your Church or Chappel? and do such Strangers Subscribe their names? As also a third book for the Church-wardens accounts? as also a Chest with locks and keys, wherein to keep the said Book, and the aforementioned Furniture.

TIT. II.

Concerning the Church-yard, the Houses, Glebes, and Tythes Belonging to the Church.

- Can. 85. **I**S your Church-yard sufficiently fenced, and decently kept? Hath any person encroached upon the same, or made any door into it? and how long since?
2. Is the House of your Parson, Vicar, or Curate, and the Out-houses in good repair? have any of them been defaced or pulled down without license? have there been any encroachments made upon the same, or any of the ancient marks or bounds removed or changed? and by whom?
- Can. 87. 3. Have you a true and perfect Terrier of all the Glebe-lands, Gardens, Orchards, Tenements, or Cottages belonging to your Parsonage or Vicarage? as also a note of such Pensions, Rate-tythes,

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tythes, and Portions of Tythes, or other Profits (either within or without your Parish) as belong thereunto? Have any of the same been withheld from your Minister? and by whom, as you know, or have heard?

TIT. III.

Concerning Ministers.

1. **I**S your Minister a Priest Episcopally ordained, according to the Laws of the Church of *England*? *Act Uniformity 1662.*
2. Hath he been legally Instituted and Inducted into his Benefice? And did he within two months after his Induction, publickly in the Church upon some Sunday or Holiday, in the time of Divine Service, read the 39 Articles of the Church of *England*, established by Authority, and there publickly declare his assent thereunto? *Can. 39.*
3. Is he resident among you? how many weeks hath he been absent from you without an urgent necessity? *Stat. 21 H. 8. 13.*
4. Hath your Minister a Curate? Is he in holy Orders, and conformable to the Laws of the Church? Is he allowed by the Ordinary? *Can. 48.*
5. Doth your Parson, Vicar, Curate, or Lecturer, if you have any, perform his Office in all things according to the Rubrick of the Book of Common-prayer lately established, and the Act of Uniformity published therewith?
6. Doth your Minister at the reading of Divine Service, wear a Surplice and Hood? *Can. 58.*
7. Doth he observe the Holidiaies and Fasting-daies, the Ember-weeks, and the yearly Perambulation in Rogation week, as is appointed by the Rubrick? *2. Eliz. Injunc.*
8. Is your Minister licensed to Preach? If so, doth he constantly (not having a reasonable impediment) preach one Sermon in your Church or Chappel every Sunday? or if he be not licensed, or be hindred, doth he procure one to supply his Office, by preaching or reading one of the Homilies? *Can. 45.
Can. 46.*
9. Doth your Minister instruct the youth in your Parish in the Church Catechisme, and prepare and present them to be confirmed by the Bishop? *Can. 59.
Can. 61.*

10. Doth

Can. 67.

Can. 69.

Rub. before
Baptisme.

Can. 62.

Can. 72.

Can. 73.

Can. 75.

10. Doth he neglect, or delay to visit the Sick; or to baptize any Infant that is in danger of death? Doth he baptize any without Godfathers and Godmothers, or admit any of the Parents to be Godfather or Godmother to their own Children?

11. Hath your Minister married any persons without publishing the Banes on three Sundays or Holidays, or hath he married any in private houses, or not between the hours of Eight and Twelve in the Morning, unless he had a license or dispensation so to do?

12. Hath your Minister taken upon him to appoint any publick or private Fasts, Prophecys or Exercises not appointed by Authority? Or doth he, or any other, either Minister or Lay person hold any Conventicles or Meetings in private houses within your Parish, for people of severall Families to resort unto, under the pretence of Preaching, Praying, Thanksgiving or Humiliation, contrary to the Laws and Canons in that case provided?

13. Is your Parson, Vicar, Curate or Lecturer, a man of a sober life and conversation? or his carriage in any kind disorderly or scandalous, and unbeseeming a Minister?

TIT. IV.

Concerning the Parishioners.

Can. 110.

1. IS there any in your Parish that make profession of any other Religion, than what is established in the Church of England? and that refuse to come unto the publick Assemblies, Prayers, or Service of the Church? If there be any, what are their names?

Can. 109.

Stat. 37 H. 8.

Can. anno. 1571.

2. Is there any person in your Parish, that lyeth under a common fame, or suspicion of Adultery, Fornication, or Incest? Are there any common Drunkards within your Parish, or common Swearers, or blasphemers of Gods Name, or any that are noted to be Raylers, unclean, or filthy talkers, or sowers of sedition, faction, or discord among their neighbours?

3. Do any of your Parish upon Sundayes or Holidays follow their bodily and ordinary labour, or permit their servants so to do? Are any Shops kept open, or wares sold? or do any Vintners, Inn-keepers, or other Victuallers and Sellers of Beer or Ale, suffer

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suffer any persons to tittle or game in their houses upon those days?

4. Doth every person in your Parish duly resort to your Church or Chappel upon Sundays and Holi-days, and there decently and orderly, as well during Divine Service, as Preaching the Word of God, demean themselves reverently, uncovering their heads, kneeling at Prayers, standing up when the Creed and Gospel are read? *1 Eliz. c. 2. Can. 18.*

5. Is there any in your Parish that refuse to send their Infant-children to be baptized in the Church, unless in case of urgent danger? or do they send them to be baptized in other Parishes? or are they baptized after other form than is appointed? or are they kept unbaptized longer than is allowed? or is there any Infants or more aged persons as yet unbaptized? *Can. 57.*

6. Is there any person in your Parish of 16 years of age who doth not receive the Sacrament three times in the year, of which *Easter* is alwayes to be one? Doth any refuse to receive it kneeling, or resort to other Parishes? or do any strangers come to your Parish Church to receive it? *Can. 21. Can. 57.*

7. Are there any in your Parish that be denounced and declared excommunicate for any crime committed? How long have they been so excommunicated? and do any of your Parish keep society with them before they be reconciled to the Church, and absolved? *Can. 65.*

8. Are there any living in your Parish, who have been unlawfully married, contrary to the Laws of God? or any that being lawfully divorced have married again? or any that being lawfully married, and not separated or divorced by course of Law, do not cohabit together? *Can. 99.*

9. Are there any married women in your Parish, who after their delivery from the peril of Child-birth, refuse to make their publick thanksgiving to God in the Church? and when they come so to do, do they come decently apparelled, and make their offerings according to custom? *Rub.*

10. Are there any that refuse to pay their duty for *Easter*-offerings, or refuse to contribute to the Rates made for the repair of your Church or Chappel, or any thing thereunto belonging? *Rub.*

11. Do any refuse to bury their dead according to the Rites

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of the Church of England? And are there any Wills or Testaments of persons dead in your Parish, that be yet unproved? or any goods administred without a due grant from the Ordinary? Did any dying in your Parish, or elsewhere, leave any Legacy to your Church, or Chappel, or to the use of the Poor, or to any other pious and charitable purposes? What were those Legacies, and how have they been bestowed?

12. Is there any strife and contention among any of your Parish for their Pews or Seats in your Church? Have any new Pews been erected in your Chancel, or in the body of your Church or Chappel without leave from the Ordinary?

TIT. V.

Concerning Parish Clerks and Sextons.

1. **H**Ave you belonging to your Church or Chappel a Parish Clerk aged 21 years at the least? Is he of honest life and conversation? and sufficient and able to perform his duty in reading, writing, and singing? Is he chosen by your Minister, and doth he duly attend him in all Divine Services at the Church? Are his wages duly paid unto him? or who withholdeth the same from him?

2. Doth the Sexton diligently do his duty in keeping the Church clean and decent, in tolling and ringing the Bells before Divine Service, and when any person is passing out of this life, doth he upon notice toll a Bell, that the neighbours may thereby be warned to recommend the dying person to the grace and favour of God?

TIT. VI.

Concerning School-Masters, Schools, Physicians, Chirurgeons and Midwives.

1. **D**Oth any man keep a publick or private School in your Parish, who is not allowed thereunto by his Ordinary? Doth he teach his Scholars the Catechisme of Religion set forth by Authority? Doth he cause his Scholars upon Sundays and Holy-

Can. 77.

Can. 78.

Articles of Visitation.

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Holy-days orderly to repair to your Church or Chappel, and see that they behave themselves quietly and reverently during the time of Divine Service and Sermon?

2. Doth any in your Parish practise Physick or Chirurgery? *Stat. H. 8.*
or any woman taken upon her to exercise the office of Midwife, without License from the Ordinary?

TIT. VII.

Concerning Church-wardens and Sidemen.

ARe the Church-wardens of your Parish yearly and duly chosen by the joynt consent of your Minister and Parishioners, or one of them by your Minister, and the other by the Parishioners? *Can. 89.*

2. Have the former and last Church-wardens given up their Accounts to the Parish, and delivered up to the succeeding Church-wardens the monyes remaining in their hands, together with all other things belonging to your Church or Chappel?

3. You are further to understand, That according to your Office, you are to provide against every Communion appointed in your Church, or Chappel, a sufficient quantity of fine white Bread, and of good Wine, according to the number of Communicants.

You are also to exhibit a Bill of Presentments to this Court, of all and every of the Offenders in any of the matters mentioned in the precedent Articles, and therein to taketh assistance of your Minister.

FINIS.

without license from the Treasury?

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A The church-wardens of your Parish, early and daily to
attend to the payment of your Minister and Parsonage,
or one of them by your Minister, and the other by the Parsonage,
shall have the same and full collection given up their
Accounts to the Parish, and delivered up to the Incumbent
with all other things belonging to your Church or Chapel;
You are further to understand, that according to your
Oath you are to provide against every Communion appointed
in your Church or Chapel, a sufficient quantity of fine white
bread, and of good Wine, according to the number of Commu-

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